

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe



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From Sacramento*

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Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem

End of Session Update

This year's legislative session came to a close last week, with the Assembly and the Senate working to make decisions on important legislation. At a time when much of California politics is in turmoil, legislators from throughout the state continued to work together to pass bills like these that will improve Californians' daily lives. Bills that passed range from ensuring employment equality and promoting job training, getting more information on gas supplies, and tracking state spending. My Assembly Bills 17, 1340, 1368, and 1551 all passed successfully. Here's a summary:

AB 17 prohibits state agencies from contracting with businesses that discriminate in providing benefits to employees with spouses and employees with domestic partners. Providing the same benefits to an employee with a domestic partner or spouse ensures that workers receive equal pay for equal work. The State of California does not discriminate in providing benefits to an employee with a spouse or an employee with a domestic partner. My bill ensures that our state only does business with contractors that are willing to make the same commitment to equality.

AB 1340 requires oil producers to submit information on petroleum supplies to the California Energy Commission (CEC) on a more frequent (weekly instead of monthly) basis. The information is necessary to more accurately track inventories, imports, and exports – all of which will help the CEC more precisely determine the causes of the gasoline price spikes that California consumers feel the burden of every day. My bill will help the CEC collect more accurate information and make better information available to the public. It is a first step that seeks to get the necessary data to better determine why California's gas prices are so high, which will enable the CEC and the Legislature to find more informed solutions.

AB 1368 requires an annual report to the legislature and to the public on all authorized projects using voter-approved bond funds. In order to maintain the public's trust in bond measures, the voters need to be able to easily find out how, where, when and for what the money is being spent. This bill requires the information to include a list of projects funded, amounts allocated for each project, location of each project, and the status of the project, that is readily accessible to the public.

AB 1551 supports the creation of the San Diego Multi-use Biotechnology Training Center to serve as an anchor and catalyst for growth of the biotechnology and life science industry in the San Diego region. The center will operate as a nonprofit organization and provide state of the art, industry-oriented bioscience training. The center will serve as an incentive to attract and retain biotech and life science companies in San Diego, and will help to fill the demand for the quality workforce necessary to the success of the industry.

If you are interested in learning more about these or any other bills, you may visit www.leginfo.ca.gov and select "Bill Information." On this site, you can search by author, bill number, or keyword.

Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary

This summer marks the thirteenth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The federal act ensures the rights of equal access to Americans with mental or physical disabilities. This act is not only a provision for access, but also a statement of social justice and inclusion.

California has been a leader in developing programs and services designed with increased accessibility to persons with disabilities. The California State Legislature has been active in supporting the preservation of the ADA. I joined the Legislature in passing Assembly Joint Resolution 1 in 2001, which sought to protect the ADA after court cases that ruled portions of the act unconstitutional. The Resolution urged Congress and the President not to weaken the ADA, and President George W. Bush later stated that he would not support an effort to weaken the act. I will continue to work with the Legislature to ensure that California retains its position as a leader in disability rights, and will maintain my close relationships with San Diego's equal access community groups. This year's anniversary of the ADA is a sign of how far we have come on disability rights issues in the past thirteen years, but also a reminder that there is still work to be done.

For more information about the ADA, you may visit the informative ADA homepage at www.ada.gov.

Announcing This Year's Fifth Grade Essay Contest

I will be sponsoring an Essay Contest this fall for all fifth grade students in the 76th Assembly District. This is an annual event that I am pleased to participate in every year. I always enjoy reading the essays submitted and helping in the selection of winners among San Diego's many shining essayists. I look forward to the participation of students from throughout San Diego in this annual contest. Contest information, writing prompt, and details will be available in the schools at the beginning of October. The deadline for submitting entries will be November 26, 2003 and prizes will be awarded to the winning students. For more information please contact me at Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov



Assembly-member Kehoe joined by fifth grade students that participated in last year's essay contest.

Free Brochures from the Kehoe Library

My office provides a variety of free brochures that can give you information on everything from state parks and energy saving tips to how to lobby the State Legislature. I also have information about protecting your privacy, including how to put your phone number on the national "do not call" list to stop unwanted calls from telemarketers. Some of the brochures available are:

- California State Parks in San Diego County
- Flex Your Power Pocket Guide to Energy Needs
- How to Lobby the California State Legislature
- Stopping Telemarketing Calls

If you are interested in receiving any of these brochures, please email me at Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov

Join me at your next Community Meeting

Throughout the next few months I will be attending community meetings throughout the district. I look forward to learning about all the recent happenings in your neighborhood and getting to know new members of the community. Hope to see you there!

Schedule of Community Meetings:

Tonight! September 24th - *Serra Mesa Community Council*
ARC Center, 9575 Aero Drive

October 15th - *Pacific Beach Town Council*
Taylor Library, 4275 Cass Street

October 16th - *Linda Vista Civic Association*
Linda Vista Recreation Center

October 22nd - *Ocean Beach Town Council*
Pacific Beach Recreation Center, 4276 Santa Monica

November 6th - *Clairemont Town Council*
Clairemont High School cafeteria, 4150 Ute Drive

November 19th - *Tierra Community Council*
Tierrasanta Recreation Center, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

And more dates to be announced!



Assemblymember Kehoe talks with members of the community in Clairemont.

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